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News Release

TIP FROM 'CYBER ANGEL' SNARES ONLINE PREDATOR

ICE, Anchorage Police capture Eagle River man in attempt to meet minor for sex

ANCHORAGE, Alaska— A tip from the public led to the arrest of a 44-year old Eagle River man for online enticement Friday after a joint investigation between the Anchorage Police Department Crimes Against Children Unit and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigated the man's activities.

Christian John Hansen was charged with one count of Attempted Online Enticement of a Minor for Sex, a violation of Title 18 USC 2422 (b) that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years.

The investigation into Hansen's activities began on Jan. 9, after a concerned citizen contacted the police. These people are known in the cyber-sleuthing world as "cyber angels." This cyber angel reported she had been in a chat room and an individual using the screen name CURROCREO had been soliciting underage minors for sex. The cyber angel further reported that a link to the profiles page revealed a photo of Chris Hansen with the screen name CURROCREO.

Investigators from the Anchorage police's Crimes Against Children Unit and ICE special agents monitored Hansen's chats with a 14-year old girl over several days. Hansen soon proposed a meeting with the girl for the purpose of engaging in sexual intercourse.

Agents and officers arrested Hansen before the meeting could occur.

The arrest is an important success for both APD and ICE, whose investigators regularly work together as part of the Internet Crimes Against Children task force for the Seattle region. The task force includes federal, state and local agencies.

The arrest is also part of ICE's Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, more than 4,800 individuals have been arrested, including 15 in Alaska. The targets of Operation Predator include U.S. citizens suspected

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of sex crimes against children as well as non-citizen sex offenders whose crimes make them subject to removal from the United States.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or http://www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.